

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gotoh et al. (U.S. Patent 6,292,625, "Gotoh"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Advisory Action dated April 14, 2004 stated that Gotoh discloses a predefined area as a directory, and in particular, that the Root directory file is stored in a file set descriptor and recorded in a predetermined location, and files and directories are recorded within the directory (citing Gotoh at column 7, line 58, to column 8, line 7).

The statement made in the Advisory Action assumes that when the Root directory is established at LBN 83 (in Figure 3), the entire area from LBN 84 to the "end" of the partition space is defined as the Root directory. Applicant disagrees. Areas LBN 84 to 583 and LBN 586 to 3584, for example, are "unallocated" at the time of establishing the Root directory, and therefore not pre-defined as the Root directory.

In any case, in order to clarify what is meant by "pre-defining an area on the disk medium", claim 1 has been amended to recite that pre-defining an area is "by storing on the disk medium area location

information for the area.” “Area location information is shown for example in Figures 9A and 9B. Applicant submits that Gotoh does not teach or suggest defining an area as a directory by storing “area location information” on the disk medium. Accordingly, at least for this reason, Gotoh fails to teach each and every claimed element and therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

The same argument for claim 1 applies as well to claim 2. Claim 2 recites hierarchically pre-defining a further directory in an area within the area pre-defined on the disk medium as the directory. Again, because Gotoh teaches directory name and directory location as the mechanism for designating the area associated with the directory as part of a parent directory, it does not teach defining a directory within an area pre-defined as a directory (i.e., within an area defined by the stored area location information). In the example described in the Office Action, the directory A and the file B do not become part of the Root directory until after they are recorded in the Root directory file.

With respect to claim 3, because Gotoh does not teach a pre-defined area as a directory as recited in claim 1, it also does not teach a step of deciding whether the area is pre-defined or not. It may be true that Gotoh teaches defining a directory under a directory in a hierarchical fashion. However, relying on the ISO standard, the lower

directory becomes part of the higher directory after the lower directories information is recorded in the higher directories file.

With respect to claim 4, Gotoh does not teach restriction of a pre-defined area for a directory to be within a pre-defined area. Being based on the ISO standard, formation of a subdirectory in Gotoh is not restricted to a pre-defined area.

With respect to claim 5, since Gotoh fails to teach a pre-defined area as recited in claim 1, it also does not teach a pre-defined area as continuously arranged.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 103

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotoh et al. in view of Walker (U.S. Patent 6,134,586). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action admits that Gotoh fails to teach the additional limitation expressed in claims 6 and 7. Instead the Office Action relies on Walker for making up for the deficiency.

However, Walker also does not teach pre-defining an area on the disk as a directory and recording files and directories within the defined area. Thus, Walker fails to make up for the deficiency in Gotoh. At least for this reason, Applicant submits that the rejection fails to establish prima facie obviousness for claims 6 and 7.

CONCLUSION

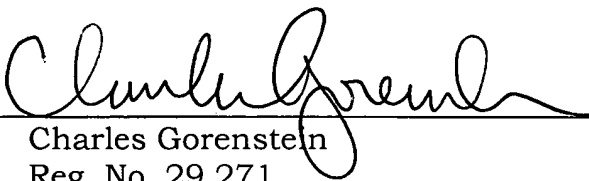
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant petitioned for an extension of two months to May 17, 2004 for the period in which to file a response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2003 in the concurrently filed Notice of Appeal. The required fee has been paid in connection with the proper filing of this Notice of Appeal.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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